angle, and similarly from angle to angle through the centre, the whole resting upon a solid bed of masonry, and each terminating under the heavy corner piers nearly 40 feet square at the base, and upon which mainly the weight of the tower and spire will be thrown. In the lower part of the tower are three massive archways, each 10 feet wide.

Within, the roof is the chief feature, and consists of fourteen massive principals of ornamental design. On the hammer beams of each principal will be placed sculptured figures of saints, and over each an ornamental canopy. It is due to the liberality of several generous individuals to state, that not less than nine of the fourteen principals, each of which is valued at about 70*l.* have already been promised as presents to the church, and it is expected that before the roof is on, the remainder will have been similarly disposed of. There is a small gallery at the west end of the church, to contain about 100 youths as choristers. The organ-loft and orchestra will be in the tower, where there is a large open archway, about 50 feet high. The gallery here will project into the church, supported by carved brackets. The pulpit, carved in stone, is entered from steps built in the wall, the roof over which is supported by arches of a similarly ornamental character. There will be three altars within the church, each surrounded by carved oak screens.

Messrs. Cooper and Tullis, builders, of Preston, have contracted for the masons work.

A VOICE FROM A FOREIGN VISITOR.

The following remarks of a German periodical represent London under a new point of view:—"Any one who had not lived but in a little German town, and still acquired English to some degree, will undergo unfelt sensations and thoughts on sojourning in the world-city of the present age—being such a huge aggregation of matter animate; at least moving in such exertion, that it staggers the mind. It was some minor arrangements which surprised me the most, on seeing them in actual operation. You post a letter (half an ounce) for one penny to the remotest of the Shetland or Orkney islands—*ad ultima Thule*. You may drive in a second class railway carriage about 20 miles out of town, paying for a return ticket, available the whole day, one shilling. Then, the whole south and east circumference of the town is encircled by a railway. I went to Blackwall, for which distance a return ticket is also only sixpence. Still, there are millions of our money which must be realized by such trifles. It will equally surprise my countrymen, that one may get in the world-city a cup of coffee for one penny, in places where French, and even German, periodicals are at hand. You can take a decent clean bath for one penny, if cold; for two-pence a warm bath. I heard that a few years since Jullien gave concerts, where Sivori (the pupil of Paganini) played, the admission being one shilling. All these things are, by themselves, minor affairs, perhaps, unobserved by the general sight-seer; but I had come to London just to study *Londinum populare*. Now, any one may perceive, that such public accommodation pre-supposes a variety of schemes and social agencies of the deepest complexity—a nation educated and cultured, at least as far as business goes; a certain quiet *aplomb* and steadiness of national character. The continent has not such a town, because it has not such a people as the English: this all remounts, however, to the period of the Magna Charta, the Commonwealth, &c. Consider a social organism of comparatively small extent, consisting of two millions and a half of human beings—how this has been all formed, preserved, how it exists. Enterprises and schemes in operation, which everywhere else would surpass the might and treasure of monarchs; all accomplished by a few modest-looking, spare-worded (*wort-kargen*) citizens; Messrs. Fox and Henderson, accepting the proposal of the Royal Commissioners about the building of the Crystal Palace with the words, "this will do for us." But while things have been conducted here to the *utmost limits* of the present social system, I think that some novel, unexpected change or revulsion is at hand. Can any one think that we will say, anno 1860 or 1870, London has now three millions of people, and so on *ad infinitum*. No, no! Truly said our great thinker, *Göthe*, "there is provision made for trees not growing up into heaven." I do not speak politics; still, on seeing London, its under-water Tunnel, the New Houses of Parliament endless pile, the Egyptian(?) granite terminus near Euston-square, 90,000 people (the army-number of Darius and Cambyses) congregated simultaneously under the same roof; the East-India House, whose few officials govern more land than Alexander the Great, or Napoleon; the offices of the Missionary Societies, who have agents further than any state of Europe; seeing and considering all these things, the thought of "*esne ultra?*" struck my mind. Surely not in that and the same track. Nowhere else, and nowhere more than here, the idea struck me, that we stand on the threshold of some great social crisis, such as that formerly brought on by Moses, the Egyptian priesthood, &c.; and then we Catholics may conclude with our old liturgic refrain:—"*Domine salvum fac Populum tuum.*"

THE PRINCESS'S THEATRE.

Shakspeare's "King John," as first played before her Majesty at Windsor under the direction of Mr. Kean, and now at the Princess's Theatre, is one of the most complete performances that has ever been seen in England. A list of authorities for the dresses and decorations at the head of the bill, including Meyrick, Planché, Strutt, Fairholt, Fosbroke, Shaw, Montfaucon, and Willemin led us to expect that more than ordinary pains had been bestowed upon it, but did not prepare us for the extent to which the care and expenditure have been carried. The acting, the scenery, the costume, the grouping, were all equally good, and produced a whole of great excellence. Mrs. Charles Kean as *Constance*, Mr. Kean as the *King*, Mr. Wigan as *Faulconbridge*, and last *and* least, Miss Kate Terry as *Arthur*, left nothing to be desired. The first scene, a hall in the palace, with open wood roof, stained windows in the sides, and *tiled floor*, is very effective. Angiers, Northampton Castle, and the last scene (Swinstead Abbey), though the architecture is a little too late, also deserve warm commendation.

DEFECTIVE EMBANKMENTS.

APPALLING CATASTROPHE AT HOLMFIRTH.

On Thursday last, a fearful catastrophe took place along the line of a valley leading from a great reservoir at Bilberry-mill, where the waters of the Holme river and the Diglee-brook were impounded, in a deep gorge between the lofty hills in this part of the West Riding of Yorkshire, by means of an embankment about 150 to 200 yards wide, and with a depth of 85 to 90 feet of water behind it. On the early morning of the day named this embankment entirely gave way, and although its insufficiency was too well known, and although at least fifty persons were near it, watching at the moment, so sudden was the break down, that about 100 lives were lost as the body of water swept down through the valley, carrying away residences, mills, machinery, and other valuable property, it is said, to the amount of 500,000*l.* to 600,000*l.*

It so happens that the commissioners who are considered responsible for this awful calamity are the principal mill and other owners and occupiers themselves, who got power in 1837 to erect five great reservoirs, of which this is one. The commissioners subscribed 40,000*l.* towards completing them, and afterwards did construct three of them by means of 30,000*l.* additional money raised on mortgage. The contract for constructing the reservoir in question, according to a local correspondent of the *Times*, was let to Messrs. Sharp and Sons, Dewsbury, in 1840; but before they had completed the embankment the contract was broken, in consequence of an alleged and too well ascertained defect in the foundation. This defect was supposed to arise from a spring of water under the embankment, which rendered the puddling ineffectual, and there was a leakage underneath in proportion to the pressure of water in the reservoir, causing the embankment to give and to settle down unequally. A Chancery suit was the consequence, which has not yet been settled. The contract was afterwards relet to Mr. David Porter and Brothers, and by the advice of Mr. Leather, engineer to the commissioners, a cofferdam was sunk in the centre of the embankment to get at the seat of the spring, and means adopted which it was hoped would remedy the defect. This remedy, however, never satisfied the public and the owners of property, and from that day to this, public distrust only increased down to the moment of the catastrophe itself. The commissioners, too, as a body, got into official arrear or difficulties, and the reservoir became dilapidated, till at length it is alleged that had not a screw become useless which opened a valve to relieve the pressure, the embankment, defective as it was, would have been still standing, together with the valuable property of those who thus allowed the means of their own certain destruction to accumulate and come to a crisis, in the face of a perfect knowledge of the fact.

There is but too much reason to distrust the sufficiency of many other embankments, about which not the slightest fear is entertained; and we earnestly trust that the supine fatuity of those who passively allowed such a catastrophe to overwhelm them in the present instance, and to sweep away all their property, will be a warning to others, inducing them timeously and liberally to contribute a portion of *their* means to save the whole.

HOUSE AGENCY.

Hughes v. Wood.

In the Shoreditch County Court, on 26th ult., a peculiar case, *Hughes v. Wood*, was ultimately decided by Mr. Serjeant Storks, who refused to disturb a verdict for 30*l.* given to the plaintiff by a jury empannelled before the same judge in the same case, previously tried in the Shoreditch County Court, and the main particulars of which, as then reported, were as follow:—The plaintiff had ten houses to sell, and agreed with the defendant, a house-agent in Kingsland-road, to employ him as his agent to endeavour to effect a sale of them for him on the usual per centage. The owner wished to obtain 1,000*l.* for the property. On the part of the plaintiff it was alleged that the defendant had, in the first place, demanded 1,150*l.* for it; that in the afternoon of a day (24th October) on the morning of which a Mr. Gibbs had offered him 800*l.* for it, the defendant called on the plaintiff and told him he had had an offer of 500*l.*, of which he advised the acceptance, as the property was in a dilapidated state; and that as the defendant had made no mention of Mr. Gibbs's name, or of the sum he offered, the natural inference was that he intended to deceive the plaintiff, and to take an undue advantage of him. The defendant, it was admitted, had afterwards stated he had had an offer of 700*l.* On the part of the defendant it was alleged that he was not aware of Mr. Gibbs's offer when he went to the plaintiff: that this offer had been made to the defendant's clerk, although Mr. Gibbs had declared it was made to the defendant himself; and that the offer of 700*l.* had been made by Mr. King, an auctioneer, and as the defendant himself, in evidence, called him, a "client" of his. The defendant, however, in giving his evidence, further stated that he saw Mr. Gibbs with the plaintiff in the afternoon, when he called (Mr. Gibbs had gone to the plaintiff and got the property for 770*l.*, after negotiating with the defendant), and that he, the defendant, "was disgusted with him." On further examination, the defendant declared that he considered his "client," Mr. King, to be entitled to preference, as his offer was made before he was informed of Mr. Gibbs's offer, and that on this account, he had still proposed to the plaintiff to sell his property for 700*l.* although he then knew that Mr. Gibbs had offered 800*l.*

Marylebone Bank for Savings.—At the twenty-second annual general meeting of this Institution, held on the 5th inst. it appeared from the report read to the meeting, that the balance due to depositors is 350,554*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.*

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